

Human Right Commission
October 27, 2004 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: David Finke, Dee Campbell-Carter, Glenn Glasgow, Lawrence Morganfield III, Valeta Snell

Members Excused: Marie Glaze, Randy Cole

Staff Present: Phil Steinhaus, Fred Boeckmann, Nanette C.M. Ward, Jamal Wright

- I. **Call to Order/Introductions:** Finke called the meeting to order and introductions were made.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Campbell-Carter moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Glasgow and passed by a unanimous vote.
- III. **Approval of 9/22/04 Meeting Minutes:** Morganfield moved to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Snell and passed by a unanimous vote.
- IV. **Old Business**

- A. **Study Circles Report:** Ward passed out information on the Study Circles Action Team. She said that Elliott and Wehmeier are no longer on the Action Team. Wehmeier will still work with State Farm Study Circles.

Ward reported on Community Circle activities and volunteer hours report. Community Circle evaluation summaries for July, August and September were given out. She also handed out an information sheet from the October Community Circle.

The October Community Circle focused on the experience of the Islamic community. There was a really good turn-out. There was great support from the Muslim community and good diversity in the group. The program included a presentation on Islam and discussion circles. A revised evaluation form was used. Good "grades" and comments were noted.

Campbell-Carter expressed her appreciation for Ward's work.

Ward said there was interest at the end of the Community Circle to express some of the concerns that were raised. Finke commended Ward for the timing of the Community Circle. It occurred within days of a local raid of an Islamic charity. He noted that there are lots of fears and misconceptions are in the community. Ward added that Action Team member Mark Milanek has contacted his pastor at Missouri United Methodist Church regarding comments that were shared at the Community Circle. He was concerned about those who would be affected by the suspension of this charity during Ramadan. He received encouragement to move forward to try to help those being helped by the charity.

- B. **Human Rights Enhancement Program:** Steinhaus asked about attendance at the work session next week. Both Glasgow and Finke will be unable to attend. Steinhaus will check with Glaze and Cole.

Steinhaus handed out folders containing the nine funding proposals that were submitted to the commission. He also handed out a schedule for the hearing and reviewed the funding process. He indicated that he is reviewing the proposals and will provide summaries at the next meeting.

- C. **Investigative Evaluation Forms:** Steinhaus reviewed the complainant evaluation form and suggested that staff work on a simplified version. Glasgow questioned if it would even be returned. Morganfield recommended yes/no questions. Campbell-Carter asked Wright to try to get it down to a one sheet survey.

V. **New Business**

- A. **Columbia Values Diversity Celebration Award Nomination Forms:** Steinhaus reviewed the nomination form and passed out copies. He encouraged commissioners to share the information with others.
- B. **AHANA Journalism Workshop Final Report:** Steinhaus pointed out that copies of the final report were included in commission folders.
- C. **Other:** Finke noted that the annual City Council reception for boards and commissions would be on Thursday, November 11.

VI. **Staff Reports**

- A. **Community Services:** Steinhaus reviewed news articles included in the commissioner folders.
- B. **Law Department:** No report.
- C. **Investigator/Community Educator:** Ward handed out information on Arab-Americans and an update on the Americans with Disabilities Act. She also reported that Wright represented the commission at the Community Resource Fair at Paquin Towers.

- VII. **Public Comment:** A father and his son attended the meeting as part of a Boy Scout merit badge activity. They commented that they found the meeting very informative

- VIII. **Closed Session:** Morganfield made a motion to go into closed session to discuss pending cases. The motion was seconded by Campbell-Carter and a roll-call vote was taken. Snell called the roll with the following vote: Finke; yes; Glasgow, yes; Campbell-Carter, yes; Morganfield, yes; Snell, yes.

The commission went back into open session.

- IX. **Commissioner Comment:** Snell mentioned the NCCJ Dismantling Classism and Racism Institute that will be held in mid-November in Columbia, IL and encouraged interested commissioners to consider attending. She said to contact her for information and that they are very generous and accommodating regarding payment. She spoke very highly about the conference and training.

- X. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Steinhaus, Manager
Office of Community Services